

**STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INDICATORS COLLABORATIVE (SEHIC)
CLIMATE CHANGE INDICATORS**

Indicator: CC4: Mitigation Indicators

Measure(s): CC4.3: Vehicle Miles Traveled per Capita

MEASURE: Vehicle Miles Traveled

Last updated:	April 25, 2010
Measurement units:	Vehicle miles traveled (millions) per capita
Geographic scale:	Statewide
Time scale:	Annual, 2008 most recent as of 5/2010)
Significance/background:	Vehicle miles traveled can be an indicator of urban sprawl, air pollution, and a sedentary lifestyle. According to the U.S. EPA, transportation accounts for 29% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and is the fastest growing source of emissions (http://www.epa.gov/otaq/climate/index.htm). Transportation trends from 1990-2000 showed an increase in the percentage of annual single-occupancy vehicle commuting trips from 73.2% to 75.7%, representing close to 13 million increased trips. Public transportation, cycling, and walking combined equaled 8% of total national community trips in 2000, a 1.5% reduction from 1990. For additional information on U.S. commuting trends, visit http://www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/c2kbr-33.pdf .
Rationale:	A reduction in vehicle miles traveled per capita can indicate increased density; increased access to alternative forms of transportation such as public transit, cycling, and walking; and climate change policies focused on improving air quality and promoting active living.
Limitations:	By focusing only on reductions in vehicle miles traveled, this indicator does not reflect the corresponding increases in other forms of transportation or the growing use of telecommuting as a mitigation measure.
Data resources:	U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/ohpi/hss/hsspubs.cfm
Data limitations:	Statewide data does not differentiate between urban, suburban/extra-urban, and rural population clusters.
Related data:	U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program, http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/ntpp.htm U.S. EPA calculators and modeling tools to assess the links between transportation types, emissions, and air quality: http://www.epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/tools.htm
Related SEHIC measures:	CC 1.1: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

	CC1.2 Air Mass Stagnation Events CC1.3 Ozone due to Climate Change CC 1.6: Pollen Counts CC 2.5: Respiratory/Allergic Disease and Mortality Related to Increased Air Pollution and Pollens CC 4.1: Total Energy Consumption per Capita CC 5.5: Number of Health Surveillance Systems Related to Climate Change CC 6.2: Number, Percent, and Percent of Population Living in Cities Participating in the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement CC 6.3: Creation of a State Climate Change Advisory Board CC 6.4: Completion of a Greenhouse Gas Inventory CC 6.5: Development of a State/Local Climate Change Action Plan
Recommendations:	As data becomes available, track both reductions in vehicle miles traveled and increases in alternative forms of transportation.

HOW-TO GUIDE: Vehicle Miles Traveled

1. Go to the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration website:
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/ohpi/hss/hsspubs.cfm>
2. Under “Highway Statistics Publications” click on the link for the year under review.
3. Select Table PS-1. Note: Table PS-1 not available for years 2009 and 1992-1994.
4. Under the columns labelled Annual Vehicle Miles of Travel (Millions), note your state’s Total Per Capita. This is the total per capita annual vehicle miles of travel (in millions).